

“Not in the Bible: God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle”

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jopei2VFWG8>

Oh friends, with all good intentions sometimes we blow it. We need to be authentic and genuine. “I have been there.” Really? No, you haven’t. You have not had *exactly* what has happened to another person. Now you can identify, you can empathize, but it’s not about you it’s about them.

Well-meaning and well-intentioned statements become simply Christian speak or what I call “Christian-ese.” God closes a door and opens a window. God never said that. It’s not in the Bible. God closes a door, opens a window, that’s great, but what if you are on the 15th floor!!! Some advice that again well-meaning Christians give is simply a platitude or simply not in the Bible.

Several years ago, Craig Groeschel pastor of lifechurch preached on this very subject. That opening video was one he used. So, I want thank Craig Groeschel for some of the stories and points of today’s message.

One of the things he says is that: Chances are pretty good that you’re either about to go into a difficult season in your life---OR you’re in the middle of a difficult season in your life OR you’re just coming out of a difficult season in your life.”

Some here right now are in the middle of going through a bad time. In fact, you may be thinking “I just can’t take any more of this.” Oh, but God won’t give me more than I can handle. Uh...that’s not in the Bible.

Here are some stories that *are* in the Bible.

In the book of Judges, there’s Gideon who says,” I’m the weakest in my clan, I’m the least in my family. God, I don’t have what it takes to do what you want me to do.” (Judges 6:15)

Moses said: “Now, I’m slow of speech, I’m not a good speaker, I’m not a good leader. These people are wearing me out. I can’t do it all. I don’t have what it takes.” (Ex.4)

Even might King David have said when the weight of his sin caught up to him, he said in Psalm 38 verses 4 and 8. “My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. I can’t take it all.” He said,” I’m exhausted and completely crushed.” Listen to his words. He says,” My groans come from an anguished heart. I don’t have what it takes to handle this.” (Psalm 38:4,8)

Even Jesus in the New Testament in Mark's gospel relates to this. Mark 14:33 and 34 Jesus was looking ahead to what he would endure on the cross, Mark said Jesus began to be deeply distressed and troubled and Jesus said this, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. As he's sweating drops of blood, he says, "Physically, my soul is overwhelmed to the point of death."

God never said that he wouldn't give you more than you can handle. The proper question becomes "Who does the handling?"

Let's look at 2 reasons God could allow you have more than you could handle.

Reasons God Could Allow You to Have More Than You Can Handle

1. He wants us to depend on His presence.

When things go well, we have a human tendency to forget about God. "God, I know you are still there, but things are going okay. I've got this God." "Keep it going God, thanks."

When we are in the middle of the storm we wonder where God is. "Life isn't going the way I thought it should---I wish this wasn't happening." "Why is it happening?" "I don't understand why God is allowing this to happen?"

Oh, God won't give you more than you can handle. AH, not in the Bible. I prayed, but God must not be with me. If God is good then this wouldn't be happening. It is unfair. I don't believe God is with me.

I love the way Craig Groeschel puts it: **(image) Never let the presence of a storm cause you to doubt the presence of God.**

Winds *will* blow. Waves *will* crash. Storms *will* come. Oh God teach to us to depend on your presence. May I never let the presence of a storm cause me to doubt the presence of God.

Through these things may we draw even closer to God. **Psalm 145:18 New Living Translation (NLT)¹⁸ The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.**

And I must confess that sometimes I call upon Him and I don't necessarily *feel* Him. A faith fact, if you will, is He IS present.

James 4:8 English Standard Version (ESV)⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

In the storm what are you hanging on to. I want Jesus to be the anchor of my soul. Sometimes when we have nowhere else to turn to, it is then that we turn to God.

Groeschel tells a true story about himself when he travels. Here is Groschen's story, in his words. It's a story about him in an airplane.

"Every time I sit next to someone, I almost want to lie about my occupation because every time ... one of the first questions they ask is," So what do you do for a living?" Every time I say I'm a pastor, the conversation goes one of two ways. Either they're like "Oh, you're a pastor. Well, that's really neat." They never talk again.

Or they turn into like religious freak. For five minutes, we had a normal conversation. What do you do for a living? I'm a pastor. Oh, praise the Lord, brother. Hallelujah. Thank you, Jesus. Glory to God, I'm so thankful that God preordained me to sit next to a man of the cloth because in a moment, this airplane's going to take off and we're going to soar on wings like eagles. We're going to fly and not be faint. Hallelujah.

I'm," Where'd that come from? You were normal a minute ago, now you're religious man." I've never lied but I want to lie.

Well, one lady, she said," What do you do for a living?" I said," Well, I'm actually a pastor of a church." She said, "Well, that's fine as long as you remember two things. Number one, I am not a Christian, and number two, I do not want you to convert me on this flight." Fair enough, let's just start right there. I said," That's great. I won't try to convert you. Let's just enjoy the flight together."

We actually started developing a good conversation together and midway through the flight, man, we hit turbulence from hell. Now, I don't know how many of you had been in turbulence from hell. There's turbulence and, "Oh, it's bumpy." And then there is turbulence that is like," Rededicate your life to Jesus just in case turbulence."

You're confessing sins just in case and it was that kind of gut-wrenching turbulence. Well, since she wasn't a Christian, she had no reason not to cuss. She was just like she had the gift of cussing. It was like an art form. She's like bleep, but I mean she said every cuss word I've ever heard. She created new combinations I didn't even know were possible.

She's like," I'm sorry, pastor, but blah, blah, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep." Midway through and she's cussing. I just leaned over for fun. I said," Still don't believe in God?" She's like, "Bleep.... No, I don't,"

Then about five minutes later, we still hadn't gotten out of it and she said," I don't believe in your bleep, bleep God, but while you're praying, you might as well pray for me too."""

There you go, okay. There you go. I don't believe in God but you might as well pray for me too. It's amazing when life gets difficult how suddenly you're drawn to the presence of God."

It's amazing what draws us closer to the presence of God. I sometimes see our life like and ECK (electrocardiogram) **(Image)** Now I know medical people out there are already trying to figure out and read this EKG. My simplistic point is that there are a continual ups and downs in life. Some HIGHS and some lows. That is life. There always will be. You certainly know what happens when you flat line. As long as our life goes on there will be the ups and downs. Some very high highs and some low lows.

But remember in the highs and in the lows the presence of God. **Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;**

God's presence is with you.

Reasons God Could Allow You to Have More Than You Can Handle

- 1. He wants us to depend on His presence.**
- 2. He wants us to experience His power.**

Too many of us are doing life on our own. We don't need our power. We need more than our power, we need supernatural power to make it in this life.

2 Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

Paul says, "Why did it happen?" Result clause....so that...we might not rely on ourselves, but on God. Yes, the God of power who raises the dead!!!! Woo-hoo!!!!

We were created to need God. We were created to be desperate for Him. When you realize He didn't expect you to handle it...that when we experience His power and peace.

I was one year out of college. Moved from Kentucky to Florida back to Kentucky. Got married. Started seminary. Less than 5 months after we got married Sarah's dad died of cancer. A month after he died, I got a phone call that Sarah's MeMaw (Mama Lena's mother) was close to death.

I was waiting for Sarah to come home to tell her about MeMaw when this young seminary student closed his hand in a fist and said to God, "I can't take much more of this!" As soon as I said that, I heard the whisper of God, not audibly, but clear nonetheless tell me, "Yes, but I can." I can't take much more, God won't give you more than you can handle, oh.... but God says He can handle it. His presence and His power are there.

The Apostle Paul had what is called a "thorn in the flesh." Scripture says this (Paul is speaking) **2 Corinthians 12:8-9 New Living Translation (NLT) ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."**

God why can't you answer my prayer? Why can't you keep the depression away? God heal my child. God, I hate seeing someone I love suffer so much. God can't you just fix this marriage? God turn my teenager back to you.

It's frustrating. You know He can and then He doesn't...so then why would God allow me to have more than I can handle?

Oh, to tap into the power that is beyond our ability to understand.
God will never give you more than you can handle. God never said that. Not in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 10:13 New International Version (NIV) ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

He will not tempt or test you beyond what you can bear. God will provide a way so that you can endure it. Let me say that again. God will provide a way so that you can endure it. But it doesn't say, "God won't give you more than you can handle."

In life there is a lot to handle. Some here may have these thoughts about being overwhelmed.

Help---

- *my parents are getting a divorce
- * my husband walked out on me
- *our home is full of anger and yelling
- *we may lose our house to mortgage company
- *my child is a drug addict
- *I can't find a job
- *my spouse has terminal cancer
- *our debt is out of control
- *I'm so sad all the time
- *my daughter is cutting herself
- *I'm exhausted and lonely
- * I really messed up
- *my secrets are killing me
- *I'm depressed all the time.

Someone help me. Help!!!!

Instead of saying "I have to be strong." Perhaps we need to say, "I have to be weak. I have to be broken. Lord I need you. I can't do it by myself."

Depend on His presence. Experience His power.

(AFTER PRAYER--- <https://www.sermonspice.com/product/49064/the-storms-of-life>)